

# LIVE

## Be Electrically Fire Safe

- L - Look, listen and smell**  
**I - Investigate and isolate**  
**V - Visit [www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk](http://www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk) to find an approved electrician**  
**E - Emergency. Is your house on fire? Call 999.**

**Look** for signs of yellow discolouration on consumer units, switches and sockets. Listen for electrical arcing which is a buzzing noise around accessories. This could be a sign of a loose or failing electrical connection. Smell for fishy plastic burning which could mean that plastic is overheating.

**Investigate and Isolate** your electrical supply - if you see burning, overheating or damage turn off the electrics by operating the main switch.

**Visit** [www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk](http://www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk) and find a qualified and competent electrical contractor- registered with a UKAS accredited, Government Authorised Competent Person Scheme.

**Emergency** - If your house is on fire get out, stay out and call the emergency services out on 999.

**48%**

of house fires in England 2014-15 caused by electrical problems

Fires caused by faulty electrical installations, appliances or leads, or misuse of electrical equipment

**44%**

of house fires in England 2018-19 caused by electrical problems

**12,986**

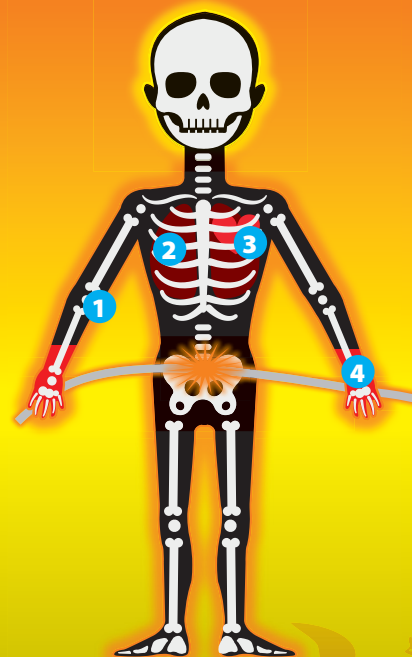
house fires in England were related to electrics in 2018-19

**418**

house fires recorded in Norfolk in 2019/20

**299**

of those being an electrical cause.



## Dangers associated with electrical current

The human body is a good conductor of electricity- it flows easily through our bodies.

Why? Humans are made up of 70% water, something electricity can move through easily. Electricity will always take the quickest possible path to earth.

A real electric shock is very painful and dangerous.

Symptoms include:

- 1 Muscles tighten up, making it almost impossible to let go of the equipment
- 2 Lungs constrict, making it hard to breathe.
- 3 Heart constricts and blood vessels tighten.
- 4 Burns occur where electricity enters and exits the body.

## What is the law?

All electrical work must meet Building Regulations to assure you and your family are safe. Using an electrician registered with a Competent Person Scheme assures the safety of you and your family and you can be confident their work complies with the law.

Competent electricians will be able to self-certify their work to assure it complies with the British Standard for electrical safety BS 7671. If you do not use a competent person you may have to get the work certified yourself to ensure it complies with the law.

Not all electrical work needs to be notified to the local council, but all needs to comply with the Building Regulations.

In England, notifiable works include:

- new electrical circuits
- replacement fuse boxes (consumer units)
- alterations to existing circuits in a bathroom (within a certain proximity of baths or showers)
- alterations to existing circuits in any room that contains a swimming pool or sauna

If you use a registered competent electrician, they can advise you whether your work is notifiable and you will know you are in safe hands.

## Need further help?

For fire safety advice, visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/fire](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/fire)

For support finding an electrician,

visit [www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk](http://www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk)



Norfolk County Council

